

THE STATUS REPORT

MCSW, Charles F. Hurley Bldg., 19 Staniford St., 6th FL, Boston, MA 02114
Web: www.mass.gov/women E-mail: mcsw@state.ma.us Phone: 617-626-6520



MCSW TO RELEASE "STATUS OF MA WOMEN BY COUNTY" REPORT

In an effort to contribute to the depth and breadth of gender specific data in Massachusetts, the MCSW will release its "***State of Women: A County by County Report on Women and Girls in Massachusetts***" research report on November 29 at 11 a.m. at the State House.

The report is modeled after a template developed by the National Institute for Women's Policy Research, creator of "The State of" reports, the Massachusetts version of which was published in 2002.

"Part of the Commission's mandate is to study and report on the status of women in Massachusetts," noted Commission Executive Director Linda Brantley. "When we commissioned our first piece of research, *Real Cuts - Real People - Real Pain: The Effects of the Fiscal Crisis on Women & Girls in Massachusetts*, we realized the appetite for gender disaggregated data. Furthermore, people want information that is specific to their community or region of the state. Thus we are pleased and proud to provide this report which will give a good overview of how women fare across key areas in every county of the Commonwealth."

The report is intended to give legislators, public policy makers and advocates the tools they need to advance their causes and create true change for women in Massachusetts.

The report includes basic demographic data as well as highlights the areas of: health and well being, education, employment and earnings, poverty and self sufficiency, political participation and gerontology.

"We hope legislators and policymakers will utilize ***State of Women: A County by County Report on Women and Girls in Massachusetts*** report as a guide and spring board for future legislation and public policy. We also hope the research community will use gaps in the existing data to catalyze future research initiatives on women and girls in Massachusetts," Brantley added.

This report was made possible through the hard work, dedication and perseverance of many people. The MCSW would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and effort to create this report. In particular, special acknowledgement and thanks go to Molly Mead, Lincoln Filene Professor, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University, her two graduate students Audra Ladd and Bobbie Peyton, and MCSW interns Jessica Anderson, Sally Pendergast and Margaret Brunner.

Anyone interested in the report is cordially invited to join the MCSW at its launch on November 29. The report will also be available for download from the MCSW Web site www.mass.gov/women.

In Memoriam: The Passing of Representative Deborah Blumer



DEBBY BLUMER

The Commonwealth lost a dedicated public servant, and the women of Massachusetts lost an enthusiastic champion, with the recent sudden passing of Representative Debby Blumer. Blumer, D-Framingham, died unexpectedly at age 64 after suffering a heart attack while driving in Framingham.

A longtime community activist who fought for vulnerable populations, Blumer was running unopposed for her fourth term. She was a true friend and supporter of the MCSW and her drive, determination and strength of conviction will be greatly missed. We extend our sincere condolences to her family and to the constituency she served so well.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Executive Director Corner 2
- Breast Cancer Awareness 2
- MCSW Launches MWRRN 3
- MCSW Hosted 3rd Women's Commission Mtg. 4
- Cambridge & Brockton Commission News 4
- Congratulations Commissioner Means 5
- Bristol County Breakfast Recap 5
- MCSW to Hold Statewide Pay Equity Hearings 6
- MCSW Research Collaborative 7
- MassGAP Kicks into High Gear 7
- Women's 10th Annual Health Conference 8
- Other Noteworthy News 8
- Upcoming Noteworthy Events & Happenings 9

Executive Director Corner

Her light still shines.....

I recently had the privilege of being a guest of Terry Guiney at *The Crystal Ball*, the first event of its kind held by The National Lung Cancer Alliance, where his late wife, former MCSW Commissioner Elaine Guiney was honored posthumously with The Silent Force Award.

Although our time together was all too brief, Elaine was a very special person in my life. She was a member of the search committee that hired me and someone with whom I felt an instant connection. She was passionate about making a difference for the women of Massachusetts and was incredibly supportive of all our efforts. She was due to become the chair of the Commission in September of 2003 when she was diagnosed with lung cancer. A short five months later, she was gone. It is still almost impossible to believe.

In accepting the award, Terry noted, "We are very grateful that Elaine is being remembered in this way and that she continues to contribute to the discussion." For Elaine would be the first to want her reality to serve as an impetus and call to action to spare others from suffering.

Thus over 500 leaders from the philanthropic, corporate and medical communities came together at this gala event to raise over \$100,000 to eradicate lung cancer and to help halt the most lethal and misunderstood of all cancers. November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and is dedicated to increasing attention to lung cancer issues. Efforts will strive to bring much-needed support and attention to a disease that each year kills more people than breast, prostate, colon and pancreas cancers combined.

While lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States, it suffers from a lack of visibility and funding. These events, and other initiatives nationwide, begin a new wave of education and outreach to draw attention and resources to overcoming the disease. This movement will be abetted by the realization that over 60 percent of all new lung cancer cases are being diagnosed in people who never smoked or in smokers who quit decades ago.

Also honored were outstanding Boston physicians who are making a difference in this field: Dr. Judah Folkman, Children's Hospital, Dr. Bruce E. Johnson, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Dr. Thomas Lynch and Dr. Douglas J. Mathisen, Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Daniel G. Tenen, Harvard Medical School & Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Dr. David Sugarbaker, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Dr. Christina Williamson, The Lahey Clinic.

We can be proud that the Massachusetts medical community is making such a contribution. And proud too that one of our Commissioners continues to play a leading role in helping to find solutions.



"Did you know..."

OCTOBER is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
For more information visit: www.thebreastcancersite.org/

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

The Breast Cancer Site was founded to help offer free mammograms to women in need -- women for whom early detection would not otherwise be possible. Since its launch in October 2000, the site has established itself as a clear leader in online activism and in the fight to prevent breast cancer deaths.

According to the Breast Cancer Web site, each year 182,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,300 die. One woman in eight either has or will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. In addition, 1,600 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 will die this year.

If detected early, the five-year survival rate exceeds 95%. Mammograms are among the best early detection methods, yet 13 million U.S. women 40 years of age or older have never had a mammogram.

How you can help! With a simple, daily click of the pink button at The Breast Cancer Site, visitors help provide mammograms to those in need. Visitors pay nothing. Mammograms are paid for by the site's sponsors and distributed by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

For more information about breast cancer and mammograms, please visit the Breast Cancer Web site at <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>.

MCSW Launches Massachusetts Women's Resource & Referral Network

Women and families of Massachusetts will now have the opportunity to attain the information and resources they need. This information is just a click away thanks to the October 12 launch of the Massachusetts Women's Resource & Referral Network (MWRRN) www.mcswnetwork.com an interactive, online Web service.

The program began with the MCSW Chair, Elizabeth H. Houlihan introducing the keynote speaker Donna Cupelo, Region President MA/RI Verizon Communications. Also in attendance were Ellen Corcoran, General Manager Verizon NE Region; Robert Driscoll, Vice President Sales & Marketing Verizon NE Region; Cheryl Mongell, President Verizon Market Area; Representing the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators were Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Kathleen Teahan; Also present were MCSW Commissioners Fleckner, Means and Swiston. Overall, more than 55 people attended.

"Verizon's participation in this project was sparked by its belief that today's technologies can have a profound effect on many social issues. The Verizon Foundation supports initiatives that promote access to technologies to address national and community issues. Verizon believes that new and diverse approaches to technology-based learning, such as Web-based, computer-based and virtual learning can motivate and empower individuals and organizations. This project helps to empower women by helping them connect with, and access, vital information and resources," stated Donna Cupelo.

MCSW Program Manager Paula Daddona presented a tutorial on how the information is collected and retrieved by the end user. The MWRRN collection of resources includes local, community, regional, statewide and in some cases federal resources and providers. "To have an easily accessible online Web collection of service providers all in one location is an invaluable resource for Massachusetts women and their families," stated MCSW Chair Houlihan.

This service is in large part being made possible by the generosity of corporate sponsors such as Verizon, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Tufts Health Plan, AstraZeneca, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Savings Bank Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts and many others who have contributed through the MCSW's annual fundraising activity, the Unsung Heroines Award Luncheon. The MCSW is grateful and thanks all of its donors and supporters.

Organizations and groups wishing to be included in the network may go to the site and register their organization by entering contact information. Letters, including user names and passwords, were mailed to all those organizations that are already in the network. They will be able to log in to the network and update their information as needed.

Questions and requests for additional information should be addressed to Program Manager Paula Daddona at 617-626-6521.



Pictured above L to R: Donna Cupelo, Region President MA/RI Verizon Communications; Elizabeth Houlihan, MCSW Chair; Ellen Corcoran, General Manager Verizon NE Region; Representative Kathleen Teahan, Co-Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus; Robert Driscoll, Vice President Sales & Marketing Verizon NE Region; Seated: Cheryl Mongell, President Verizon Market Area.

Visit:

www.mcswnetwork.com



Pictured above L to R: MCSW Commissioners Roseanna Means, Marianne Fleckner, Chair Elizabeth Houlihan, MCSW Program Manager Paula Daddona, MCSW Commissioner Greer Swiston and MCSW Executive Director Linda Brantley

Commission Corner

The MCSW Hosts 3rd Massachusetts Women's Commissions Meeting

Two of the state's 10 local/regional women commissions will celebrate their 30th anniversaries in 2007 - Cambridge and Worcester. Plans for celebrations were just one of many items discussed recently when representatives from the women's commissions of Massachusetts met at the YWCA of Central Massachusetts.

At this third meeting of the Commissions, convened by the MCSW, representatives from Berkshire County, Cambridge, Newton, Somerville, Worcester and the MCSW were present. Each commission had the opportunity to share news about activities and events. One of the most exciting moments of the meeting came when Fran Manocchio, Director of the Human Rights Commission and Staff Liaison to the Women's Commission from Worcester reported the success of partnership with local colleges and universities that was developed because of a conversation at the first meeting of the Massachusetts Women's Commissions.

Participants reviewed a draft of a Handbook for Establishing Women's Commissions which has been prepared by the MCSW. They also reviewed an embargoed copy of the "Status of MA Women by County" report that the MCSW will release in late November. Also discussed were potential collaborative projects in which commissions might engage. MCSW Executive Director Linda Brantley encouraged commissions to sign-on to the Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality and the MA Conference for Women and to support the effort of the MassGAP initiative. The Massachusetts Women's Commission will meet again in the spring.

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

After 25 years of masterful leadership Nancy Ryan, has passed the title of Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women to Kimberly Sansoucy. The City Manager and the Cambridge Women's Commission are pleased to announce her appointment and the MCSW is eager to welcome her. Kimberly has been affiliated with the Education Development Center in Newton since 1997, working on a Gender Healthy Schools initiative in the Boston and Cambridge Public Schools, a national Hate Crime Prevention project and a career development program for homeless adults dealing with addictions. She is a founding member of Girls' LEAP (Lifetime Empowerment and Awareness Program) that provides a creative violence prevention curriculum for girls and adult women in their lives, often in collaboration with the Cambridge Police Department's Rape Aggression Defense program. She is a coalition-builder and a collaborator who sees the issues of education, housing, reproductive health and wellness, jobs, anti-discrimination and immigrant and community services as at the center of her current and past work.

In Cambridge, Kimberly has hit the ground running. During her first month she has led the Commission's involvement in domestic violence prevention events and rallies. Additionally, The Commission has collaborated with community and advocacy organizations and local TV stations to advertise the resources available to survivors of domestic violence. On the horizon, is a partnership with the Cambridge Police Department, to increase the number of female candidates.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women welcomes Kimberly Sansoucy and looks forward to strengthening its relationship with the Cambridge Women's Commission.

Brockton Women's Commission Honor's Local City Women

On October 14, 2006, The Brockton Commission on Women's Issues (BCWI) held their annual breakfast at Massasoit Conference Center to honor five individual women and one group of women for their significant service to the city. Approximately 175 people attended.

Individuals honored included Dr. Claire Appling, Director of Health Education for Brockton Public Schools; Maria Eugenia DaSilva, co-founder and president of Cape Verdean Women Association of USA; Attorney Susan Nicastro, a board member for Charity Guild, Inc.; Dr. Susan Szachowicz, Principle of Brockton High School; Any Veiga, board member of Cape Verdean Association, and chairwoman of the fundraising committee; and the Women of the Davis K-8 School PTA.

Tina Jones, president of the PTA at Davis School accepted the award on behalf of its members.

All award recipients were nominated by colleagues or friends. "Rocky Marciano may have put the city on the boxing map, but everyday people are quietly helping Brockton each day," stated Katie Stanton, BCWI Chair. Congratulations to all!



For Nationwide Women's Commission Information, visit the National Association of Commissions for Women's Web site: www.nacw.org

Commission Corner Continued

MCSW Congratulates Commissioner Roseanna Means, MD

Since 1998, MCSW Commissioner Dr. Roseanna Means and a network of committed volunteer medical professionals have provided safe, respectful and barrier-free health care to women who are homeless or marginally housed in the Greater Boston area. Dr. Means founded *Women of Means, Inc.*, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 1999 "to improve the lives of women who are homeless or marginally housed through quality health care, education and advocacy."

Women of Means, Inc. is being awarded one of the "Governor's Points of Light" awards in the Volunteer Community-Based Organization category. The Governor's Points of Light Award is the highest honor bestowed on a volunteer in Massachusetts, recognizing youth, adults, nonprofits, and businesses that have made an exemplary contribution to their communities through volunteer service.

Honorees will participate in a special award presentation by Governor Mitt and Mrs. Ann Romney at a gala award ceremony on the evening of November 14th at the Massachusetts State House. Congratulations to all!

In other news, Commissioner Means will participate on a panel called *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Change: Dynamic Approaches to Building Stronger Communities* at this year's Massachusetts Conference for Women. For more information, please visit: www.maconferenceforwomen.org.

Bristol County Breakfast for Women in Government and Women Leaders

The Chancellor's Office at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts recently hosted a breakfast for women in appointed and elected offices in the SouthCoast as well as women with an interest in government and leadership.

Featured speakers included Chancellor Jean MacCormack, State Senator Joan Menard and Linda Brantley, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, there was a panel of 4 women elected officials who offered advice to those who are considering becoming involved in government. That panel included Representative Patricia A. Haddad from Somerset, Governor's Council member Carole Fiola from Fall River, New Bedford City Councilor Viola Pina and elected Chairman of the Board of Assessors in Mattapoisett, Rebecca McCullough.



Pictured above L to R back row: Carole Fiola, Kate Fentress, Rebecca McCullough, Linda Brantley and Rep. Patricia Haddad. Front row L to R includes Viola Pina, Senator Joan Menard and Linda Morad.

The goals of the breakfast were to encourage women to become involved in government and to give women some concrete "next steps" they can take to actively address issues facing women in the SouthCoast region. Please contact Kate Fentress at 508-996-8253 or kfentress@cfsema.org if you would like more information about the Women's Fund. Many of the women who attended the breakfast are also involved in working to create a Bristol County Commission on Women.



November 7th is MA State Elections!!

Please take the time to VOTE!!

Remember, 52% of Massachusetts' population are WOMEN

MCSW to Hold Statewide Public Hearings to Gather Pay Equity Testimony

In its efforts to advance Massachusetts women to pay equity, the MCSW, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality and state legislators, will host a series of statewide hearings to gather women's personal experiences and to provide information on pay equity. Through these hearings the MCSW seeks to document what the wage gap looks like for women in Massachusetts. The feedback received will be utilized to bolster legislation that will be filed in the next legislative session.

The first of these hearings will be held on Wednesday, November 15 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Worcester at the YWCA Central Massachusetts, 1 Salem Square.

We know that over the course of a lifetime, because women on average make 77 cents for each dollar earned by a male counterpart doing the same job that women lose earnings ranging from \$200,000 to \$2 billion dollars. At these hearings, the MCSW hopes women will share their experiences with wage discrimination, such as how they and their families have been impacted by wage inequities, if they've ever pursued a wage inequity grievance/complaint/lawsuit, etc. Specific examples might include being hired at less than a male counterpart, being passed over for promotions, losing ground when taking time off to raise a family and more. For those who do not wish to share their personal experiences in public, written testimony will be accepted.

"We know that discussing salary information and discrimination is very personal and private and is often confidential, which makes getting to the heart of the matter difficult. However until women start talking about these issues, comparing notes and building a body of data that can be used to drive change, we will not move off that 77 cent mark," noted Linda Brantley, MCSW Executive Director. "We sincerely hope that women will choose to come forward and share their experiences so that we can utilize them to make things better for ourselves as well as the next generation."

The MCSW would appreciate RSVPs for attendance and intent to testify, which can be done by calling the MCSW at 617-626-6520 or e-mailing mscw@state.ma.us. **We would also really appreciate your help with outreach to inform all those who are interested in attending and/or testifying.**

All hearings will be held from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Future hearing dates and locations include: January 17, Springfield YWCA, February 28, Boston YWCA, March 28, Southshore TBD, April 25, Amherst and June 6, New Bedford. The Coalition is also considering adding other hearings on the Cape and the Merrimack Valley. Check out our online calendar at www.mass.gov/women for more information as it becomes available.

Join the Massachusetts Coalition for Women Wage Equality

Organizations across the state which are engaged and committed to creating wage equality for women are convening to form The Massachusetts the Coalition for Women's Wage Equality. The Coalition will amplify the work of individual organizations, integrate efforts and promote collaboration, advocate for the passage of pay equity legislation and create a comprehensive strategy to move women to pay equity in the Commonwealth.

Enthusiasm is high among the Coalition which is meeting monthly to plan action. "It is truly very satisfying to see organizations, who have never really done so, coming together to better inform each other about their work and their initiatives, talk about they can be mutually supportive, and plan how in an integrated and strategic fashion we can all go forward together," noted MCSW Executive Director Linda Brantley.

One of the initiatives the group is planning together is an Equal Pay Day 2007 event, which will be held at the State House on April 23 and feature former Lt. Governor Evelyn Murphy, author of "Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What to Do About It."

Initial coalition members include the American Association of University Women, Boston Women's Commission, Boston Women's Network, MA Business and Professional Women, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the Crittenton Women's Union, NOW, Somerville Women's Commission, and statewide YWCAs. Additional members are welcome.

To join or for more information about the MCSW work on pay equity or the Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality, please contact Jill Ashton, Outreach Coordinator at 617- 626-6525.



Check out: www.wageproject.org

Massachusetts Women's Research Collaborative Commits to Pay Equity Work

The second meeting of the Massachusetts Women's Research Collaborative had members committing to embracing the MCSW's commitment to pay equity and agreeing to developing tailored examples of their work to showcase how wage inequity impacts women across a broad spectrum of areas.

Collaborative members present and participating included representatives from the UMASS Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the Crittenton Women's Union, and University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Researchers at the table discussed how they could contribute to demonstrating how the wage gap effects women's economic self sufficiency, access to health care, housing, transportation, childcare and other family care issues, etc. The end result would be to make the issue more clear to everyone by illustrating real examples.

Collaborative members also reviewed and offered input on the soon-to-be released Commission report "The Status of Women by Massachusetts' Counties." Discussion at the meeting included how the MCSW's report could help to identify gaps and encourage further research.

The Massachusetts Women's Research Collaborative will meet again in January, after pay equity legislation is filed, to continue discussion and strategy development around this area. Discussion will also continue around creating a central repository for research on MA women that will be easily accessible to all.

MassGAP Initiative Kicks Into High Gear

Women who have an interest in the most senior positions in the new administration have until the week after the election to submit their applications for consideration to the Massachusetts Governor's Appointment Project. MassGAP 2006 is a bi-partisan coalition of women's groups, including the MCSW, whose purpose is to increase the number of women appointed by the 2006-2010 sitting governor to senior cabinet-level positions, agency heads, and selected authorities and commissions in the Commonwealth.

All gubernatorial candidates have committed to working with MassGAP if elected to ensure that the number of women appointed to high-level state government positions better reflects the percentage of women in the Commonwealth.

Resumes are now being accepted at www.massgap.org. To assist job seekers, the web site also features a sampling of the top positions that the initiative is targeting.

The MassGAP Steering Committee aims to deliver a vetted book of applications from highly qualified candidates to the new administration prior to Thanksgiving. Task forces, led by impressive co-chairs, have organized around each area of state government: education, health and human services, administration and finance, public safety, transportation, the environment, housing and Commonwealth development and economic development. Over 200 women from across the state are volunteering their time to serve on a task force. Resumes that are submitted will be forwarded to the appropriate task force, which will screen them and recommend the most highly qualified applicants to go forward. All final recommendations must be approved by the Steering Committee.

"The process will be very intense over the next three weeks. If you know women who would like to apply, or if you know of someone who would well serve the Commonwealth if they applied and were selected, please contact them and encourage them to become part of the process," said Liz Levin, MassGAP chair.

For more information about MassGAP visit the web site or contact Amy Branger, Project Director, 617-451-9294 or Director@massgap.org.

Did YOU Register? Did your organization register for an exhibit booth?

IF NOT, the clock is ticking as limited slots remain... For the

The 2nd Annual Massachusetts Conference for Women

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

The MCSW is pleased to once again be the lead partner on the second annual MA Conference for Women, to be held at the Boston Exhibition and Convention Center. This one-day event will feature more than 75 diverse and nationally recognized speakers leading seminars on topics such as health, personal finance, education, and more. Conference attendees, expected to outnumber 5,000 this year, will enjoy even more networking, education and inspiration.

Online registration is now available at www.maconferenceforwomen.org

Other Noteworthy News

Women's 10th Annual Health Conference Held October 16th

Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and Breast Cancer Prevention

Over 3,000 people attended the *10th Annual Conference on Women's Health and the Environment* sponsored by the Heinz Family Philanthropies at the Hynes Convention Center. The conference featured national experts and many topics including "The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, Chemicals Policy Reform and Breast Cancer Prevention."

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics is a national coalition of health and environmental groups. The goal of the Campaign is to protect the health of consumers and workers by requiring the health and beauty industry to phase out the use of chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects and other serious health concerns, and replaces them with safe alternatives.

Founding groups of the campaign include: Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, The Breast Cancer Fund, Commonwealth, Environmental Working Group, Friends of the Earth, National Black Environmental Justice Network, National Environmental Trust, and Women's Voices for the Earth. In spring 2004, these groups and more than 50 other organizations signed a letter asking cosmetics companies to take a pledge, the *Compact for Safe Cosmetics - A COMPACT FOR GLOBAL PRODUCTION OF SAFE HEALTH & BEAUTY PRODUCTS*. For more information visit: www.SafeCosmetics.org.

Moreover, in response to the public health crisis of breast cancer, the Breast Cancer Fund identifies and advocates for the elimination of the environmental and other preventable causes of the disease. According to a report titled "State of the Evidence 2006: What is the Connection Between the Environment and Breast Cancer?" as many as 50% of breast cancer cases remain unexplained by either genetics or lifestyle factors. The report also notes there is "compelling scientific evidence points to some of the 100,000 synthetic chemicals in use today as contributing to the development of breast cancer, either by altering hormone function or gene expression." For more information, or to view the entire report visit: www.breastcancerfund.org.

Be proactive when it comes to your health, your life depends upon it. Please visit the above named Web sites to educate yourselves.

Did you know...?

Major loopholes in federal law allow the \$35 billion cosmetics industry to put unlimited amounts of chemicals into personal care products with no required testing, no monitoring of health effects, and inadequate labeling requirements? Scary, isn't it?

For more information visit: www.SafeCosmetics.org

Women Veterans' Network to Honor Outstanding Women Veterans on November 8

The contributions of Massachusetts' women in the military will be honored this Veterans' Day week at the "Women are Veterans Too" ceremony, which will be held on Wednesday, November 8th at 10:30 a.m. in the State House's Nurses Hall. This second annual event will feature presentations by women veterans and their supporters, as well as special recognition of an outstanding woman veteran.

To RSVP or for more information, call the Women Veterans' Network at (617) 210-5781.

October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As reported by Jane Doe Inc., domestic violence comes in the form of physical, sexual, emotional and/or economic abuse. It does not discriminate based on gender, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability or socio-economic status.

Hospitals emergency rooms report domestic violence as the leading cause of injury to women, and we know that children are adversely affected when they witness and experience violence in their home. We know that fear of retribution and feelings of guilt and self-blame often prevent victims from seeking services for themselves or leaving the relationship. For more information, visit: www.janedoe.org

Upcoming Noteworthy Events & Happenings

November 1, 2006 → MCSW Franklin-Hampshire Regional Council, Smith College 1:00 - 3:00

November 8, 2006 → 2nd Annual Women are Veterans Too! Event @ the MA State House, Nurses Hall, 10:30 am

November 15, 2006 → MCSW Pay Equity Public Hearing, Worcester YWCA, 5:30 - 7:00

November 29, 2006 → MCSW Release of the *State of Women: A County by County Report on Women and Girls in Massachusetts*, State House, Boston 10:30 - 11:30 am

December 6, 2006 → Massachusetts Conference for Women (Registration is now open!)

For more information visit: www.maconferenceforwomen.org

December 13, 2006, → Suffolk-Norfolk Regional Council Meeting, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

To be held at the YWCA, Boston, MA. To RSVP, or for more information, call the Commission office at 617-626-6520

For a complete listing of events please visit www.mass.gov/women/upcoming.htm



If you have an event that you would like added to future newsletters, or Web site, please e-mail the information to: Paula.Daddona@state.ma.us

Commission Officers & Members

FY 2007

Ellen Calmas, Chestnut Hill

Kathleen Casavant, Chelsea

Linda Cavaoli, Worcester

Gloria Coney, Roxbury

Lianne Cook, Salem

Helen Corbett, Danvers

Erika Ebbel, Cambridge

Donna Finneran, Mattapan

Marianne Fleckner, Vice-Chair, Westford

Mary Grant, PhD, North Adams

Catherine Greene, Esq., Brighton

Elizabeth Houlihan, Chair, Falmouth

Helen Jackson, MD, W. Roxbury

Judith Kurland, Brookline

Roseanna Means, MD, Wellesley

Angela Menino, Hyde Park

Carol Pimentel, New Bedford

Susana Segat, Secretary, Cambridge

Greer Tan Swiston, Treasurer, Newton

Commission Staff:

Linda Brantley, Executive Director

Paula Daddona, Program Manager

Jill Ashton, Outreach Coordinator

Darlene Kelter, Administrative Assistant

Interns:

Maggie Brunner

Lucinda Kallis-Hilbert

Aliza Krevolin

Elise Wang

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

19 Staniford St., 6th FL
Boston, MA 02114

Phone:

617-626-6520

Fax:

617-626-6530

E-Mail:

mcsw@state.ma.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

VISIT US AT:

WWW.MASS.GOV/WOMEN

Do you have questions or comments about this newsletter? If so, please contact
Paula.Daddona@state.ma.us